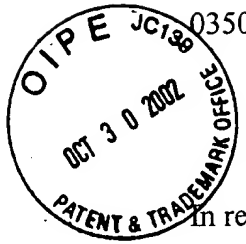


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03500.015028

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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OCT 31 2002
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

In re Application of:)
KATSUHIKO HARA)
Application No.: 09/749,731) Group Art Unit: 2852
Filed: December 28, 2000)
For: IMAGE PROCESSING)
APPARATUS AND METHOD : October 29, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

- U.S. Patent 5,485,287
- U.S. Patent 5,999,654
- Germany 43-02-391
- Germany 44-08-522
- Europe 893,766
- Japan 61-164377

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed. Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

The concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents cited above is provided in the European Search Report and by the English language abstracts

included with the cited art. The Examiner is, of course, referred to the European Examiner's comments on the English language documents as well.

The European Search Report lists Great Britain 2,264,022 as an English language counterpart to German 4,302,391; a copy of that document is enclosed and is also listed on Form PTO-1449. The European Search Report does not list English language counterparts of German 4,408,522, but an English language abstract has been located and is enclosed.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

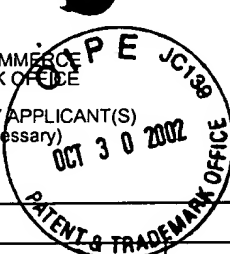
Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 32622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200


FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.015028		APPLICATION NO. 09/749,731	
APPLICANT KATSUHIKO HARA				FILING DATE December 28, 2000		GROUP 2852	



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
EP	5,485,287	1/16/96	Nakamura, et al.	358	426		
EP	5,999,654	12/7/99	Toujima, et al.	382	232		
						RECEIVED NOV 05 2002 Technology Center 2600	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT		
EP	4,408,522	9/22/94			Abstract		
EP	4,302,391	8/5/93			Abstract		
EP	893,766	1/27/99					
EP	61-164377	7/25/86			Abstract		
	2,264,022	8/11/93			Great Britain		

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

EXAMINER 	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1

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